

CORRESPONDENCE.

New York, Nov. 18, 1857.

The black republicans have a new ally. They are called the "people's convention." They have set their hearts on the defeat of the mayor of New York. A combination of the anti-democratic elements, under the name of the "Anti-Wood League," with A. Oakes Hall as the leader, have published an indictment against the mayor of several columns in length. It is a mass of old charges on which the people have twice passed in the election of Mr. Wood. It extracts from black-republican papers, with reported sayings of democrats against the mayor, which they never said, and which sayings Hall was obliged to take back. So the indictment fell still-born, and the sensation produced did not pay the cost of setting the type.

The next step in the programme was the calling of a mass meeting of the people in Wall street. Banks spoke in Wall street; the hungry mob orators spoke in Wall street; the "people's convention" spoke in Wall street. The purpose was an "independent nomination" to defeat Mr. Wood. No one cared who was put in nomination, if he could defeat "Fernando the First," as his opponents style him. But the lucky man could not be found; his name did not suggest itself to any one present; it was doubted if he was yet born. But the conglomerated mass settled down on Mr. William F. Havemeyer—once a democrat and once mayor of New York. But Mr. H. is a man of much talent and great native shrewdness; he is of Dutch descent; and he anticipated that these fellows would make fools of themselves, and try to fool him, also; so he wrote a letter of declination, imperative and unqualified; he wrote it before the meeting was held; and when the chairman was nominating a committee to wait on Mr. Havemeyer and beseech him to accept, the letter, addressed to "the president," was handed up and read. It came on the crowd like a wet blanket. It knocked all the nice plans of the "committee of arrangements" into pi, and made confusion the order of the day. Men of opposite politics, fearful that some one would get the advantage of them, sprang to their feet and insisted upon making speeches, amid the cheering of the crowd, who cried out, "Oh shut up," "Stop your noise," "Get down," and other speeches so complimentary and encouraging to one about to make a public address. The proceedings indicated the happy harmony of the group. One man wanted Cooley, the American nominee, to be nominated, as he was the only man who could unite the anti-Wood men, and secure the triumph of the anti-democratic party. His speech was amusingly well received. In their enthusiasm the crowd even "hissed" the speaker, and vented "Jers" at the name of Cooley, and the discomfited advocate slunk away like a dog in a wet day. It was a harmonious meeting, composed of harmonious elements—"democrats" of the Jack Hale and N. P. Banks stamp, Fillmore fugitive-slave men and Fremonters, the Tribune and the Express, good stiff, staunch free soilers and free lovers, agrarians, brain bread, con-outers, and the old-line whigs" who have not wheeled into the democratic line—Barnum's "happy family" is no match for the golly company snugly tucked up in one bed shouting "Down with Fernando Wood." As the elements of discontent began to show themselves, the leaders thought it prudent to dissolve the meeting, and did so, with the nomination of a large committee to report a nominee for mayor who was capable of defeating Mr. Wood. This committee was composed of "some of our first men." All classes, grades, and isms were in it; and also the names of "three democrats" of the Theodore Parker and Lloyd Garrison school. And so ended that farce.

The next step in the programme came off in the supreme court, under the lead of Mr. Whiting. This gentleman the last year came down from the bench of the supreme court to run against Mr. Wood. He made a poor show. He hoped to get the nomination this year as the "citizens' candidate," but he did not. And some were malicious enough to suggest that this step I am about to relate was taken by Mr. Whiting with the expectation that he would be rewarded by the much-coveted nomination.

The new police bill makes it the duty of the commissioners to procure a certain number of glass ballot-boxes to be used at the election. This was done by General Nye, at the cost of \$15 apiece. As the controller was ordered to pay the bill, Mr. Whiting gets an injunction from Judge Davies, our know-nothing judge of the supreme court, restraining Mr. Nye from the payment of the money claimed as due on the bill of ballot-boxes, and calling up the parties to answer the charges on which said injunction is based. In the affidavit the defendant swears on "information and belief" that the contract was a fraudulent one, and was made with the connivance of the mayor. It is not at all probable that the hearing will be had until the election is over. But the case is expected to answer the purpose quite well, and thus the process of the supreme court is used to swell the opposition against Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood is accused of appointing bullies and rowdies to places of trust and power; but Governor, the appointee of Governor King to the office of street commissioner, has not fairly got warm in his seat before he appoints to places within his gift Jim Irving, Tom Hyer, and Matthews—three of the most noted short-boys and shoulder-buffers in New York. He is accused of making the police political; yet when the appointing power is taken from him it is put in the hands of the most unscrupulous republican politician that can be found in the city or imported into it. Mr. Wood is accused of pandering to the foreign vote; but the citizens' committee put forth their nominee as follows in the Times:

"The committee of conference last night expressed in nominating an independent candidate for mayor. Ex-Alderman Daniel F. Tienan, of the twelfth ward, is the man. He is regarded as a very strong candidate, being an orthodox Tammany Hall democrat and a great favorite with the Germans."

"Great favorite with the Germans." No regard to the foreign vote! Oh, no! The hypocrisy of the opposition is not as good as the big leaves of Adam to cover their nakedness.

Amid all this opposition and scramble for office the nominee of the democratic party stands in the daily discharge of his duty, calm as the summer morning. The democracy is a unit. Its strength is well known. The memory of the wrongs these "citizens" have heaped on our city is fresh and maddening. The flush of victory is on the brow of our party. The standard-bearer of the party is one of their own selection, and not one forced on it by the powers at Albany; and when the day of election arrives these demagogues will learn where that man is placed "whom the people delight to honor."

MANHATTAN.

THE SANTA FE MAIL-ROUTE.

New York, Nov. 14, 1857.

Sir: In your paper of the 4th inst. I find a letter from Capt. A. A. Humphreys, of the corps of topographical engineers, representing that I have made a charge against the War Department, and giving facts in order to show "how groundless the charge is." The statement of mine which is given as the basis of this accusation was, that the mail-route between Independence and Santa Fe "did not receive an examination in connection with the United States Pacific railroad explorations and surveys, and it has not received that attention which its importance to the great West, and especially Missouri and Kansas, demands."

As my former connection with the Pacific-railroad explorations and surveys has been mentioned by Capt. Humphreys, I desire to explain that before I made the observations upon the route from Santa Fe to Independence this connection had ceased, and that I am not responsible to the War Department for my observations or opinions upon the region of country I traversed.

To prove that the first part of my statement is "groundless," it must be shown that the route did receive an examination in connection with the Pacific-railroad explorations and surveys. This Captain Humphreys does not show; but, on the contrary, states that the route was explored before the Pacific-railroad explorations were begun. Of this fact I was well aware when I made the statement. It is also well known that other routes which

did receive an examination by the Pacific railroad explorations had been previously traversed and reported upon by various organized parties. The fact of a previous examination of the route, and the republication of a part of the results in the report of the Secretary of War, does not affect the accuracy of my statement in any manner whatsoever.

Whether the second part of the statement—"that the route has not received that attention which its importance to the great West, and especially Missouri and Kansas, demands"—is groundless or not, can be best decided by those who are familiar, on the one hand, with the advantages of the route and the extent of the attention it has received, and, on the other, with the importance of such a route to the great West, and especially to Missouri and Kansas. The fact that the route was not specially examined by an expedition in connection with the Pacific-railroad surveys, while other routes of less importance to Missouri and Kansas were so examined, is of itself sufficient, in my opinion, to sustain the accuracy of this part of my statement.

The route was traversed in 1846 by Dr. Wislizenus, and it is from his barometrical observations that the profile which is published from the War Department was obtained. The route was also traversed by Lieut. W. G. Peck, of the topographical engineers, in 1847; and it is laid down on the map which accompanies the report of Major Emory. Neither of these examinations was undertaken with special reference to the construction of a railroad to the Pacific, nor were the natural resources of the country reported upon in detail. An equal, if not greater, amount of information had been collected in relation to the route from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Santa Fe, along the valley of the Canadian river, before the railroad explorations. This route was carefully surveyed and reported upon at length by Lieut. Simpson, of the topographical engineers, in 1849. Notwithstanding this, the route was thoroughly surveyed by the railroad surveying expedition, under the command of Lieut. A. W. Whipple, in 1853. If this comparatively untraveled route was deemed worthy of a careful survey, under the appropriation for Pacific-railroad surveys, why should not the route from Independence to Santa Fe, which is in constant use, and which is more important to the centre of western trade, receive the same attention?

The closing paragraph of Capt. Humphreys's letter questions the possibility of my having obtained information upon the character and resources of the route which had not already been obtained by officers or employees of the War Department—and this on the ground that the route has been frequently traversed by officers of the army and organized expeditions; that I am neither an engineer nor surveyor; and that I travelled in a mail-wagon. In answer to this, I affirm that I have the highest respect for the powers of observation of the officers of the army, and especially for the ability which has been displayed by the several officers who conducted the Pacific-railroad surveys. They, in connection with their civil assistants, have collected an amount of valuable information upon the character and resources of the regions they traversed which has never been equalled in the history of explorations by the United States. So also the observations of Dr. Wislizenus in 1846 were exceedingly important and valuable. But these explorers certainly have not gathered all the information which may be procured; much yet remains to be done. The observations made are but snatches from yet unexplored fields of information as broad as the front domain. It is not only possible, but most probable, that new facts will be brought in, and further information collected, by each successive intelligent observer who crosses the country, whether a civilian or an officer of the corps of topographical engineers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. F. BLAKE,
Geologist and Mineralogist.

THE HON. CALLED CUSHING.

It is with great satisfaction I notice that this distinguished gentleman has (if I don't mistake) been chosen a member of the Massachusetts legislature for Newburyport. Mr. Cushing is not only a learned lawyer, but a profound jurist, versed in all the great principles of international law, as is sufficiently proved by the mastery of opinion he gave while acting in the highly-responsible station of Attorney General of the United States. He is what is more important in this connection—a statesman of great experience in public life, a man of enlarged and liberal knowledge, of a calm yet resolute temper, industrious and persevering, of a clear and comprehensive intellect in all cases requiring the exercise of judgment and discretion.

It was much to be wished, I think, that more such men should descend to give their attention and services in our State legislatures, which in general are greatly deficient in talents and experience, and require both precept and example to prevent their running into those extravagant errors and eccentricities of late so frequently exhibited in their proceedings. The misfortune is, however, that no sooner does a man become distinguished at home than he begins to look abroad for a wider sphere of action. He aspires to a seat in Congress, or to some high official honor; he prefers filling a subordinate station in the general government to being a leader in his own State, and is the very antipodes to the illustrious Roman who had rather be the first man in the village than the second in Rome.

Surely it is not beneath the dignity of any man to exercise a controlling influence in a powerful State; to be the first among his fellow-citizens, and in a great measure give a direction to the action of the legislature, which is, in fact, the fountain of power that spreads over and pervades the entire policy of the Union. It is from thence that the action of the general government receives its first impulse and direction, and the man who wields a controlling influence at home which is felt throughout the Union, to my mind, occupies a much higher position than a member of Congress or a cabinet minister. In short, if we trace effects to causes, we shall invariably find that the governing principle in a free State is not at the pinnacle, but the foundation of the edifice. The weathercock at the top may show which way the wind blows, but has nothing to do with its direction. Public stations should be sought for higher motives than personal ambition or pecuniary gain, and every citizen should consider it his duty, even at some sacrifice of interest or convenience, to accept office, not because it is honorable or profitable, but because he owes his best services to his country when called upon to make the sacrifice. But these are obsolete ideas, and small of mortality.

As a mere object of ambition, the leadership of a State legislature is not beneath the attention of any man, however high his pretensions. In no public station can a legitimate personal influence, if directed by patriotism and integrity, be more beneficially exercised. It is useless to deny, because the examples are every day staring us in the face, that the general character of our State legislatures is not as high as it was in the earlier stages of our political existence. It has unquestionably gradually deteriorated both in talent and integrity, owing to various causes, among which are the unwillingness of men who would do honor to the station to share in the contempt which has gradually and deservedly been incurred by the conduct of too many of those bodies, and the total want of confidence in their integrity, not only as legislators, but private citizens. This has been partly owing to that pernicious system of special legislation which has strewn the path of the legislator with temptations beyond the common standard of human integrity to resist, and placed in the hands of the legislature the means of corrupting itself as well as others.

Be the causes what they may, the effects are sufficiently evident. The legislative power is not a few of the States has fallen into the hands of inferior men, many of them too ignorant to know when they are doing wrong, and who can neither comprehend their rights nor their duties. Others who may know better are greatly wanting in that integrity so essentially requisite in men exposed to great temptations, and at the same time encouraged by the certainty of impunity at least from legal punishment. The first are at all times liable to be misled by artful, interested men; the second too often succeed in misleading others; and it is a question somewhat difficult to decide which is the most fruitful source of evil—that

passive ignorance which is perpetually made an instrument of the evil designs of others, or that active principle in this direction, which will be seen from the following plain statement of some of the important public positions he has filled: He was a delegate in Congress many years ago from the Territory of Michigan, now the flourishing peninsula State of the Union; he was delegate from the Territory of Wisconsin until Iowa was formed into a Territory; he was then the first delegate from the Territory of Iowa, and continued his delegate until that "Gaiety of the Northwest" joined this family of States. On Iowa being admitted into the Union he was elected one of her senators to the Senate of the United States, and continued by a second election a senator, his present term expiring on the 4th of March, 1859. He has proven himself so faithful in his senatorial duties that he was thus twice elected by the legislature of Iowa to the Senate of the United States, and but for the advent of black-republican sectionalism he would have been honored with a third election. If in the power of the democratic party to show him for his ability, his firmness, and his great usefulness to the people of his noble State.

Senator Jones has performed other and trying duties to the people of the Northwest. He has been a soldier in the tented field. Here he was equal to the emergency that called him forth in the service of his country. I need not also say that, as a surveyor general of the Northwest, no gentleman has ever excelled him in a faithful performance of all and every public duty. He has been the medium by which thousands upon thousands of dollars have been disbursed for public purposes, every cent of which has been fully accounted for and settled to the satisfaction of the accounting officers of the treasury.

This excellent man, this faithful public servant to the people of the Northwest, would not be estranged by those whom he has served so well; but General Jones is a democrat, hence the howl of the sectional party for his sacrifice; but his long and faithful devotion to the interests of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan can never weigh one jot or tittle in his favor so long as Iowa is controlled by a party that is unfriendly to the Union of the States and the rights of the States. But, thanks to the united energy of the democratic cohorts of Iowa during the late State contest, her people are again awakening up to the important crisis, and are resolved on retrieving their once proud character of being the banner democratic State of the Northwest; and, from the immense gains made to the democratic vote in the late State contest, we believe the day is not far distant when the people of Iowa will be again ranked with the sister democratic States of this noble and prosperous confederacy. When this time shall come Senator Jones will not be forgotten in the general jubilee. He will be called again to public service, which he has graced with so much honor to himself and the constituency he has so faithfully served.

A RETIRED STATESMAN.

It is earnestly to be wished that the example of Mr. Cushing may be the means of inciting others of similar qualifications in the different States to come forward, and lend a helping hand to rescue them from the domination of ignorance, corruption, and fanaticism. In no station can they confer a greater benefit on their country, or more richly merit the gratitude of their countrymen.

Incidents of the National Episcopal Convention at Philadelphia in 1856: Chief Justice Redfield, of Vermont.

Mr. EMMETT: It was in the last speech of our late illustrious Calhoun before the Senate, in 1850, that he alluded to the several fraternal bonds of national union, created by "spiritual and ecclesiastical organizations." We shall remember his words and forebodings of evil as he enumerated the breaking of these ties one after another: the Methodist, the Baptist, and all but a few "strands" of the Presbyterian had given way. One cord remained: "The Episcopal church," he said, "is the only one of the four great Protestant denominations which remains unbroken and entire."

The importance of this solitary tie would have been more apparent than ever to Mr. Calhoun had he lived to witness the late presidential canvass. It was his fortune to be present at a lay delegate at the last national assembly of bishops and delegates at Philadelphia, in October, 1856. Madness was rampant in the North for the election of Fremont, Pennsylvania, in her State election, seemed almost drifting from her anchorage. Many of our friends from southern States almost feared, from day to day, lest some unskillful hand might fall upon the sensitive nerve of our goodly mother church in convention, composed, as it was, so largely of northern men. Days had passed without a jar; daily converse was making us brothers indeed; in fact, it was a gathering of patriotic Christians.

But at length, upon the question of fixing the rule of evidence for the trial of bishops throughout the Union on the basis of the civil law courts in the several States, Rev. Dr. Randall, of Boston, moved a proviso "that no discrimination be made on account of color," and delivered a speech of considerable warmth and effect.

Judge Chambers, the able deputy from Maryland, immediately arose, and began by saying the "reply to that speech should come from the South," and was going on to reply to the Boston divine in terms somewhat potent, as well as ardent. Excitement was kindling. Just at this stage Judge Redfield, of Vermont, arose, and having addressed the chair, turned toward the delegations facing him, and quietly said "he regretted exceedingly the state of feeling into which the convention was fast tending, and he felt certain that if the convention would listen to his five minutes he could strangle the motion so effectively that it would never be heard of again." "Hear Judge Redfield," came earnestly from the several delegations of North Carolina and South Carolina, and others seated near them: "Go on, go on." At this point Judge Chambers very courteously yielded the floor to Judge Redfield, who proceeded. And never were words more freely spoken. The harmony of the church hung, as it were, on a breath. But a brief argument from one so eminently learned and just—of the North, and of New England, too—soon led to the rising elements "the gill."

In substance, the Judge urged his approval of the same rule of evidence as adopted in the respective civil courts, for the reason that they understood the matter better than we did. He urged the importance of having some rule that was well understood; alluded to the difficulties felt in a former trial of a bishop, arising from the unsettled state of our rules of evidence. He protested against any attempt to carry reform on the subject of slavery into a State where it existed. He earnestly besought gentlemen to reflect, and not render that great convention of the only truly Catholic body of Christians among Protestants, which could sit in convention with equal representation from every State of the Union, a scene of strife and contention. He hoped and trusted the gentleman's proposition to amend would be voted down unanimously.

With a hearty response, it was so done; and with the utmost good feeling and warm-heartedness the convention proceeded to the regular business of the day. So ended the first, and may it prove the last, discordant notes in this synod of true men and true churchmen. It was gratifying for various reasons, when one reflects upon the immense value of these family ties; and more especially was this so, inasmuch as the firm stand and the eloquent rebuke came from Vermont, whose public men have been so extensively tainted with the fanaticism of abolition. Manifestly, her chief justice, who has been some twenty years, I believe, an honor to her supreme bench, has no sympathy with the fury and fervor so rampant in her State legislature and their resolves in political assemblies. So we go—not for union of Church and State, but for union of the church for the Union of the States. *Esto perpetua!*

VIRGINIA.

SENATOR JONES, OF IOWA.

It was with lively satisfaction that I lately read from your pen, Mr. Editor, a tribute, well-timed and just in history, of the faithful services of the Hon. George W. Jones, of Iowa. That notice of his eminent service to the people of Iowa in the Senate of the United States is true to the letter, but those duties are only a small portion of the service he has performed for the people of the great Northwest. It is my purpose to imperfectly give you a short synopsis of history of the gentleman, who have so appropriately noticed in your valuable journal, which, from the imperfect manner and matter of detail, you must pardon the plain narrative of a western writer, who has long been a humble admirer of the gentleman whose perseverance and faithful business qualities you have so handsomely and justly noticed.

For so young a man as Senator Jones there is not a gentleman, perhaps, in the great Northwest, save the

patriot case, who has rendered as much public service to the government of the United States. History bears me out in this assertion, which will be seen from the following plain statement of some of the important public positions he has filled: He was a delegate in Congress many years ago from the Territory of Michigan, now the flourishing peninsula State of the Union; he was delegate from the Territory of Wisconsin until Iowa was formed into a Territory; he was then the first delegate from the Territory of Iowa, and continued his delegate until that "Gaiety of the Northwest" joined this family of States. On Iowa being admitted into the Union he was elected one of her senators to the Senate of the United States, and continued by a second election a senator, his present term expiring on the 4th of March, 1859. He has proven himself so faithful in his senatorial duties that he was thus twice elected by the legislature of Iowa to the Senate of the United States, and but for the advent of black-republican sectionalism he would have been honored with a third election. If in the power of the democratic party to show him for his ability, his firmness, and his great usefulness to the people of his noble State.

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IOWA.

We give place to the following communication, but at the same time we must enter our earnest protest against the proposition of our correspondent, and all other propositions having for their object the building up of a paper currency, with or without governmental aid or sanction:

To the Editor of the Union:

Some years ago I addressed several letters to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Gladstone) on the subject of taxation and the circulating medium. I herewith hand you an extract which applies to the latter subject; in addition to which, I will add that I proposed that these notes should also be guaranteed by government, and therefore make such notes a legal tender. By this means such notes would, like the Bank of England notes on the continent of Europe, command a premium, and thus be more valuable than either gold or silver. Now, suppose the gold circulating medium to be upwards of 300,000,000, at 2 per cent, would probably produce to the government something like six to eight millions, after which may be made a clear income by charging each corporation with a license to defray official expenses. It is probable that a great many of the bankers would most strongly oppose such a regulation, because it might not be convenient to comply with the required condition, and therefore it may be assumed that such banks are not of a safe character. Another advantage of such notes is that it will prevent the necessity of paying from two to twenty cents per dollar for exchange, as such notes will pass everywhere alike, similar to the bank-notes in Scotland, which was never deranged during all the severe panics in England, because all their notes were secured by from five to ten times their value. I well remember being in Scotland when a severe panic existed in England; to my surprise, I found some difficulty to induce the traders to accept gold instead of notes—all preferring the latter. The great increase of wealth in Scotland for the last fifty years may be safely attributed to the excellent system of banking.

Some years ago I think it was the city of St. Hilliers, Jersey, was much in want of a market house, but had not the needful funds to erect it. It was, therefore, determined to advertise for plans, the contractor to be paid as the work proceeded in small portions, notes at different dates—I think all £25, each and upwards, bearing interest. These notes got into circulation like bank-notes. The income of the market was specially appropriated to the payment of interest and gradual redemption. This shows that all that is required is perfect confidence to make such paper preferable to metal; and my idea is that if such a course was adopted, the holders of gold and silver would be glad to loan it at 3 or 4 per cent. interest.

I remain, respectfully,

THOMAS MOTLEY.

"I have further alluded to bankers' notes on demand used as a circulating medium. The great defect of the former, and, to a certain extent, the present system of allowing banks to issue paper without positive security, is highly objectionable, and was the cause of the ruinous and distressing consequences that it has from time to time occasioned. This in the future may be averted by adopting a plan somewhat similar to the following: "Let the government appoint commissioners for the purpose of managing that portion of the revenue, to be entitled the 'bank-note guaranty commissioners.' So that should any party wish to commence banking, and to issue notes from one pound and upwards, he or they shall deposit, in the hands of the commissioners, good and valid securities, and they may then draw down, at any given time, the amount of the notes required. Upon the lodgment of such required security, the commissioners to endorse on the back of each note, certifying that satisfactory security has been deposited with them, and that, therefore, they guarantee that the said note, on failure or non-payment of the party, shall be paid full within a given time after such event, and the said notes to carry interest from that period up to the time of payment. These notes might be more valuable after the failure of a bank than previously. By this means the circulating medium of the country could never be deranged, as formerly was the case. Now, as almost the entire interest of 2 per cent. to the holder of the note would be paper, engraving, and printing; and suppose the banker to realize 5 per cent., he could then afford to pay an interest to the commissioners of 2 per cent. so long as the said notes were in circulation; should, however, the banker find that he could not make use of the notes profitably, or that they should have the option of returning to the commissioners such amount as he or they may think proper, and the interest on such returns to cease from that period; but should it subsequently occur to them that they could again profitably employ the returned notes, the said returned notes, or any part thereof, may be supplied by the commissioners, and from which period the interest of 2 per cent. to commence. There need be no apprehension about an over-issue, because no prudent banker would keep out money without making a profit; and, therefore, the medium would correct itself. By such an arrangement, a gold circulation would be unnecessary except for foreign transactions, and thus the interest would have 40,000,000 of capital to invest in other and profitable undertakings, the interest of which is now annually lost by lying unproductively in the hands of traders, bankers, merchants, &c. The father of the late Sir Robert Peel once proposed a plan somewhat similar to the preceding, requiring a security equal to the value only. I, however, think it ought to be at least double, so as to completely remove all chance of a possible loss to the holders of the notes. I think it is probable that this item would produce at least 2,000,000 per annum, and at the same time, I have no doubt, productive of a large and incalculable advantage to the country, by promoting public and private improvements in landed and personal property, encouragement of the arts, trade, manufactures, and commerce."

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 20, 1857.

Mr. JAMES E. JAMES, of Philadelphia, is our general traveling agent, assisted by JAMES DUNN, JOHN COLLINS, J. H. HART, EDWARD W. WELLS, JOHN R. DUNN, E. A. EVANS, R. S. JAMES, T. ADAMS, F. A. DAVIS, H. T. HART, &c.

Mr. C. W. JAMES, No. 1111 Harrison street, Cincinnati, Ohio, is our general collecting agent for the Western States and Texas, assisted by H. J. THOMAS, WILLIAM H. THOMAS, THOS. M. JAMES, DR. A. L. ORLEN, GEORGE MORRIS, and RICHARD LARSEN. Receipts of either will be good, agents. One W. B. is authorized to collect money due the Union Office for subscriptions and advertisements in the District of Columbia.

THE SO-CALLED PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF KANSAS.

The whole country will, we believe, bear witness to the loose, inaccurate, and not unfrequently false and fraudulent manner in which the political news despatches, as a general rule, are prepared for the press of our large cities. Much good has been effected by the careful and systematic arrangements of the agents of the "Associated Press;" but as their field of operations takes in nearly a whole continent, they are necessarily compelled, in very many instances, to look to precarious and unreliable sources for so small a share of their intelligence. In the eastern and western States it would seem that telegraph reporting is almost exclusively confined to enemies of the democratic party; for not content with sending deceptive election returns, these reporters freely indulge their political animosities by manufacturing, or giving currency to, statements and reports calculated to damage the prospects or good name of the democracy.

It was but the other day that a telegraphic despatch from St. Louis appeared in the daily papers of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and this city, with the startling announcement that a provisional government had been established in Kansas, to go into operation immediately, with Gen. Calhoun as governor. This statement appeared in the telegraphic column of this paper, as in the telegraphic column of all the journals which obtain their news from the agents of the "Associated Press." The statement was so absurd, and bore upon its face such unmistakable evidences of the malicious mendacity of black-republicanism, that we did not at the time conceive it to be worthy of serious comment or contradiction.

But, unfortunately, many of our contemporaries, again and again as they have been deceived by telegraphic reports, have indulged in strictures on the action of the constitutional convention of Kansas based on the assumption that a provisional government had really been established in that Territory. It does not come within the range of probability that the convention would undertake to renege the black-republican force at Topeka, for if the attempt had been made it would have met with the indignant condemnation of not simply the entire democracy of the Territory, but of the entire democracy of the whole Union. We conceive it to be an insult to the intelligence and patriotism of the convention to suppose its members guilty of harboring such a wicked—absurdly wicked—design against the rights and liberties of their constituents and fellow-citizens.

Instead of playing the part of rebels or revolutionists, the members of the convention have simply discharged their duty, and discharged it in accordance with long-established usage. The warrant, we presume, for the statement that a provisional government had been established in Kansas by the convention is to be found in the following extract from the 11th section of the schedule of the constitution just adopted by that body:

"Sec. 11. Before this constitution shall be sent to Congress for admission into the Union as a State, it shall be submitted to all the white male inhabitants of this Territory for approval or disapproval, as follows: The president of this convention shall, by proclamation, declare that on the 21st day of December, 1857, at the different election precincts now established by law, or which may be established as herein provided, in the Territory of Kansas, an election shall be held, over which shall preside three judges, or a majority of three, to be appointed as follows: The president of this convention shall appoint three commissioners in each county in the Territory, whose duty it shall be to appoint three judges of election in the several precincts of their respective counties, at which election the constitution shall be voted on, and the result shall be submitted to all the white male inhabitants of the Territory of Kansas in the said Territory upon that day, and over the age of twenty-one years, for ratification or rejection, in the following manner and form. The voting shall be by ballot."

From a perusal of the above it will be seen that the reported revolution dwindles down into the adoption on the part of the convention of the customary preliminary measures in order to give legal, constitutional force to the sovereign will of the people of Kansas. In making provision for holding the election, as set forth in the section quoted from, the members of the convention are clearly in the safe line of safe precedents. To have acted otherwise would not only have been a neglect of known duty, but their negligence would have rendered their previous labors ineffectual.

We have spoken of safe precedents. The same election provision which appears in the Kansas constitution appears in the constitutions of Ohio, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Illinois, Alabama, Missouri, Michigan, and we believe in every State constitution which has been adopted since 1803, as will be seen from the following extracts from such of the constitutions as are immediately within our reach:

OHIO CONSTITUTION.

The president of this convention shall issue writs of election to the sheriffs of the several counties, requiring them to proceed to the election of governor, members of the general assembly, sheriffs, and coroners, at the respective election districts in each county, on the second Tuesday of January next, which elections shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the existing election laws of this Territory; and the members of the general assembly, sheriffs, and coroners then elected shall continue to exercise the duties of their respective offices until the next annual or biennial election thereafter, as prescribed in this constitution, and no longer.

INDIANA CONSTITUTION.

The president of this convention shall issue writs of election, directed to the several sheriffs of the several counties, requiring them to cause an election to be held for governor, lieutenant-governor, representative to the Congress of the United States, members of the general assembly, sheriffs, and coroners, at the respective election districts in each county, on the first Monday in August next; which election shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the existing election laws of the Indiana Territory; and the said governor, lieutenant-governor, members of the general assembly, sheriffs, and coroners then duly elected, shall continue to exercise the duties of their respective offices for the term prescribed by this constitution, and until their successors or successors are qualified, and no longer.

LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION.

At the expiration of the time after which this constitution is to go into operation, or immediately after official information shall have been received that Congress have approved of the same, the president of the convention shall issue writs of election to the proper officers of the different counties, enjoining them to cause an election to be held for governor and members of the general

assembly, in each of their respective districts. The election shall commence on the fourth Monday following the day of the president's proclamation, and shall take place on the same day throughout the State. The mode and duration of the said election shall be determined by the laws now in force: Provided, however, that, in case of absence or disability of the president of the convention, to cause the said election to be carried into effect, the secretary of the convention shall discharge the duties here by imposed on the president.

MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION.

Immediately upon the adoption of this constitution, the president of the convention shall issue writs of election, directed to the sheriffs of the several counties, requiring them to cause an election to be held for governor, lieutenant-governor, representative to the Congress of the United States, members of the legislature, at the respective places of holding elections in said counties.

ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION.

The president of this convention shall issue writs of election, directed to the several sheriffs of the several counties, or in case of the absence or disability of any sheriff, then to the deputy-sheriff, then such writ to be directed to the coroner, requiring them to cause an election to be held for governor, lieutenant-governor, representative to the Congress of the United States, and members of the general assembly, and sheriffs and coroners in the respective counties.

ALABAMA CONSTITUTION.

The president of this convention shall issue writs of election, directed to the sheriffs of the several counties, requiring them to cause an election to be held for a governor, representative to the Congress of the United States, members of the general assembly, clerks of the several counties, and sheriffs of the several counties, at the respective places of election. In said counties, on the 1st Monday and the day following in December next, for members of the legislature, at the respective places of holding elections in said counties.

MISSOURI CONSTITUTION.

The president of this convention shall issue writs of election to the sheriffs of the several counties, or in case of vacancy, to the coroners, requiring them to cause an election to be held on the fourth Monday in August next, for a governor, a lieutenant-governor, a representative to the Congress of the United States, for the residue of the Sixteenth Congress, a representative for the Seventeenth Congress, senators and representatives for the general assembly, sheriffs and coroners, and the returns of all township elections, held in pursuance thereof, shall be made to the clerks of the proper county within five days after the day of election; and any person who shall reside within the limits of this State at the time of the adoption of this constitution, and who shall be otherwise qualified as prescribed in the tenth section of the third article thereof, shall be deemed a qualified elector, anything in this constitution to the contrary notwithstanding.

MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION.